

**KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 16, 2009**  
**4:30 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge**

**Members Present:** Byron Koh, Denise Boyd, Carolyn Platt, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Kathy Woods Masalski, Helen MacMellon, Nancy Pagano

**Members Absent:** Yuko Takahashi, Nancy Bess, Bill Hutchinson, Stephanie Joyce

**Minutes of March 16th:** Accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Florence reported that there is \$1,415.63 in our gift account at Town Hall. Florence, Nancy P. and Carolyn reimbursed Denise for their dinner expenses at Judies 3/19 and split the alcohol costs of the chaperones. Following the treasurer's report, Kathy asked whether the KSCC keeps an accounting of the costs related to visits by students and others from Kanegasaki. Florence said no, that that had not been the case. Kathy suggested it was a good idea to do so and offered to add up the totals. She asked those who had spent personal money or money from other sources (such as the schools) to give her those amounts before the next meeting. **It was voted to reimburse Denise \$40 from the KSCC treasury for the dinner expenses she incurred on behalf of the KSCC chaperones' dinner at Judie's.**

**Final Wrap-Up Remarks About March Middle School Visit**

Denise said that the van tour of Amherst environs, driven and enriched by APD Captain Mike Sullivan's commentary, was a huge highlight of the stay in Amherst. He took them to the underground bunker on the Notch, Atkins for donuts, the Amherst College Pratt Science Museum and on a driving tour of the various campuses. A visit to Yankee Candle would be more attractive to the students than Historic Old Deerfield next time. Denise thinks that the Amherst students should prepare a little introduction similar to that prepared by the Kanegasaki students for the Town Hall Welcoming Reception.

Jule explained what she did with the chaperones on Saturday AM. First, she took them to Station Road to see the beaver pond on the bike trail which was especially interesting because there are no beavers in Japan. Next they visited the Hitchcock Center for the Environment where they got to see a Saturday vacation class and actual stuffed beavers. Finally she prepared a real New England farm dinner at her home complete with Yankee pot roast and vegetables (topped off by Sam Adams beer!)

**October Invitation to Kanegasaki:**

Byron will draft questions for Yuko to ask Miyuki Sato in Kanegasaki regarding the October visit. (1) Will there be some sort of celebration in 2010 for which Larry is going to receive an invitation? (2) If there is NOT such a celebration, would it be preferable for Larry to take Byron's invitation (which he must decline) for this October or should a member of the KSCC be selected to go? Town Counsel has determined that it will be legal for officials to accept the gift of the all-expense paid trip since it will be made as official business. Carolyn, Jule and Nancy P. have expressed interest in participating in such a trip.

**Kathy Woods Masalski and the July Study Tour**

Kathy Woods Masalski briefly reported on the Five College Center for East Asian Studies' study-tour visit in Kanegasaki. Yuko Takahashi has corresponded with Miyuki Sato in Kanegasaki and the arrangement for the teachers to visit the town on July 10, 11 and 12 are in order. The teachers will have a home stay the first night and will stay in an onsen hotel the second night. Kanegasaki will host the group at dinner on both evenings, and, if possible, the Center will host a reception. Yuko Takahashi will be in Japan in July and will come to Kanegasaki to serve as interpreter for the group. It will be her first visit there and she will receive an honorarium for this from the Center for East Asian Studies. Kathy asked for ideas of gifts to take to the Town, particularly for Mayor Takahashi. Anne Louise White, an Amherst teacher who is part of the study-tour, was present for the meeting and gathered ideas for gifts to take for families and school visits.

**KSCC Brochure** Jule Dupre is using her desktop publishing skills to create a draft of a brochure. It will be very useful in promoting the committee and in fundraising.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting ended at 6:04 PM. The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 PM, in the Senior Center's Alice Dowd Lounge.

**Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Secretary/Liaison**